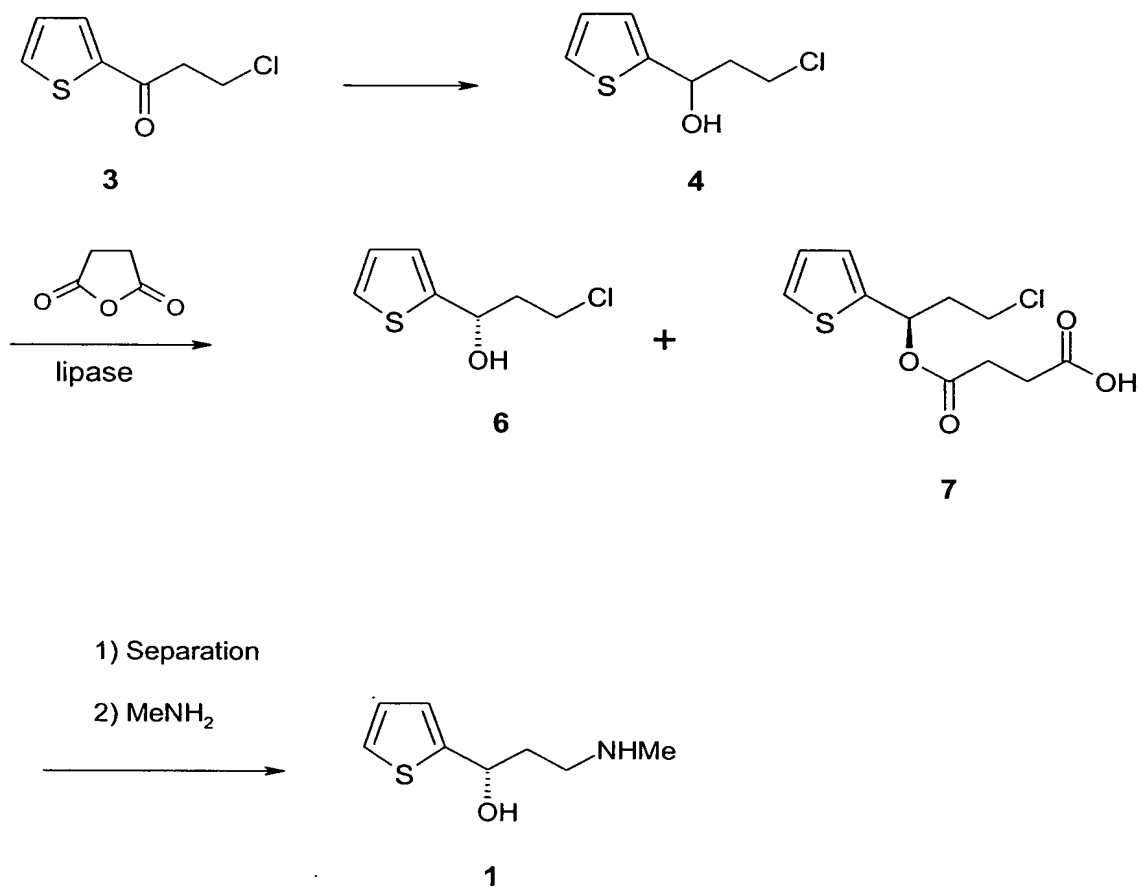


We claim:

1. A process for preparing enantiomerically pure alcohol of the formula 1, which comprises



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- (i) reducing the ketone of the formula 3 to the racemic alcohol of the formula 4,
- (ii) enantioselectively acylating the racemic alcohol of the formula 4 with succinic anhydride in the presence of a lipase to give the succinic semiester of the formula 7,
- (iii) separating off the succinic semiester of the formula 7 from the unreacted enantiomer of the formula 4,
- (iv) reacting the enantiomerically pure alcohol of the formula 4 with methylamine to give the enantiomerically pure alcohol of the formula 1.
2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the reduction in step (i) is performed using NaBH<sub>4</sub>.
3. A process according to claim 1, wherein the lipase in step (ii) is an immobilized lipase.

4. A process according to claim 1, wherein the lipase in step (ii) is derived from Burkholderia or Pseudomonas.
5. A process according to claim 1, wherein the separation in step (iii) takes place in the form of the conjugated base of the succinic semiester of the formula 7.
6. A process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction of step (ii) is carried out in a hydrocarbon as solvent.
7. A process according to claim 6, wherein heptane is used as the solvent.
8. A process according to claim 1, wherein the process is operated continuously.
9. A process according to claim 8, wherein an immobilized lipase is used in a column reactor.
10. A process according to claim 9, wherein ethylene carbonate or propylene carbonate is used as the solvent in step (ii).